

# LYMPHOGRANULOMA VENEREUM (LGV)

**Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV)** is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by three subtypes (serovars L1, L2, or L3) of the bacteria *Chlamydia trachomatis* that causes inflammation and drainage of certain lymph nodes, and destruction and scarring of surrounding tissue.

If you think you or your partner has LGV, see your doctor, local clinic, or come to the SE STD Clinic and don't have sex.

If you have LGV, tell your partners so they can be treated.

## *Symptoms*

### Men

- Tender or swollen lymph nodes in the groin area
- Fever, decreased appetite, and malaise

### Women

- Tender or swollen lymph nodes in the groin area
- Fever, decreased appetite, and malaise

### Men and Women Practicing Anal Sex

- bloody, inflamed rectum
- thick or mucous-like anal discharge
- diarrhea, lower abdominal (stomach) pain, and/or constipation

SE STD Clinic

DC General Health Campus, Bldg. #8

19th & Mass. Ave., SE

Washington, DC 20003

Clinic Hours: 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Monday – Friday

## Is LGV serious?

- Yes! If you are a woman and have LGV you could become sterile (unable to produce children).

## How is LGV treated?

- LGV can be treated with antibiotics. Commonly used are Doxycycline or erythromycin for 21 days.

## How can I avoid getting LGV?

- Avoid unprotected sex. Always use condoms.
- Avoid infection by being monogamous, having only one sex partner.

## What is the prevalence of LGV in the United States?

It is really not known because LGV is not a notifiable disease nationally. Typically, the prevalence of LGV is greatest in tropical and subtropical countries. In the Netherlands, which usually has fewer than five cases a year, as of September 2004, a total of 92 cases had been confirmed during the preceding 17 months among men-having-sex-with-men (MSM). Of those, only one patient had symptoms associated with classic LGV. In the United States, in 2005, 27 cases of atypical LGV were confirmed among MSM through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Of these, 3 were local, diagnosed at Whitman-Walker Clinic.